

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 6,797,997 B2  
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It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 7.

Lines 30-47, claim 1 should read as follows:

- 1. A method for storing data by accumulating charges in a capacitor, comprising:
  - lowering a potential of a first bit line of a pair of bit lines to a level within a range that prevents data in a memory cell from being lost; and
  - making a short circuit between said pair of bit lines to perform a precharge of said pair of bit lines by bringing the potential of said pair of bit lines to an intermediate potential,
  - wherein said short circuit is made after said lowering occurs. --.

Column 7, lines 48-67 to Column 8, lines 1-3, change claim 2 as follows:

- 2. A semiconductor memory apparatus for storing data by accumulating charges in a capacitor, comprising:
  - a forced step-down circuit comprising a first switching element having one end connected to a driving line on the high side,
  - a forced step-down capacitor and a second switching element arranged in parallel between the other end of the first switching element and a ground potential, and
  - a pair of bit lines, wherein a first bit line of said pair of bit lines is connected to said driving line, wherein
    - the second switching element is brought into an on state to hold the forced step-down capacitor at zero potential before the first switching element is brought into an on state, and
    - before making a short circuit in the pair of bit lines to perform a precharge by bringing a potential of a pair of bit lines to an intermediate potential, the first switching element is brought into an on state to lower a potential of the driving line on the high side to a level within a range that prevents data written in a memory cell from being lost. --.

Signed and Sealed this

Twenty-first Day of March, 2006



JON W. DUDAS  
*Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*